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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/697,514	CLEMENTS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jason Crawford	2819	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 10/6/2006.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10 and 12-22.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Miscellaneous

The Applicant has cancelled claim 11, therefore only claims 1-10 and 12-22 remain for this Office Action.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-10 and 12-22 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In regards to Claim 1, the prior art does not directly disclose of a serial link transmitter circuit with independently enabled parallel segments comprised of prebuffers and output stages that achieve multiple power levels of pre-emphasis while maintaining substantially constant propagation delay, nor would it have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to do so. Claims 2-7 are also allowed as being dependent on the allowable claim 1.

In regards to claim 8, the prior art does not directly disclose of a method comprising providing portions of a transmitter signal path as parallel segments and independently enabling each of the segments to control the output signal amplitude wherein the segments comprise undelayed and delayed segments to balance current steering with pre-emphasis levels in the transmitter signal path, nor would it have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to do so. Claims 9-10 and 12-14 are also allowed as being dependent on the allowable claim 8.

In regards to Claim 15, the prior art does not directly disclose of a system with a differential input signal and a plurality of independently enabled parallel segments

comprised of prebuffers and output stages that achieve multiple power levels of pre-emphasis while maintaining substantially constant propagation delay in the signal path of the differential signal, nor would it have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to do so. Claims 16-21 are also allowed as being dependent on the allowable claim 15.

In regards to Claim 22, the prior art does not directly disclose of a method of providing parallel segment portions of a transmitter and independently enabling each segment wherein the segments comprise undelayed and delayed segments to balance current steering with pre-emphasis levels in the transmitter signal path and further comprising a control element to allow inversion of a last delayed bit to achieve a polarity change of the pre-emphasis signal, nor would it have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to do so.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Crawford whose telephone number is 571-272-6004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7am-4:30pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rex Barnie can be reached on 571-272-7492. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JMC


REXFORD BARNIE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER